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House Expected to Vote Today To Approve Bipartisan Amendment to Defense Authorization Bill, Guarantee Level Playing Field for American Companies, Workers

(WASHINGTON, DC) -Today, a bi-partisan coalition of Representatives including Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) introduced the ***Fair Defense Competition Act*** as an amendment of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The amendment, which is sponsored by Rep. Jay Inslee (WA-1), Rep. Todd Tiahrt (KS-4), Rep. Rick Larsen (WA-2), Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT-3), and Rep. Mike Turner (OH-3), ensures a level playing field for American defense contractors, like St. Louis-based Boeing, by targeting illegal subsidies that allow foreign bidders to underbid U.S. companies.

"Every day, thousands of St. Louis Boeing workers help produce the most state-of-the-art military equipment available today," Carnahan said. "It is unacceptable that their jobs could be jeopardized because a foreign company that has received over \$5 billion in illegal subsidies is granted a defense contract. American workers and American companies deserve a level playing field."

The amendment requires the Department of Defense (DOD) to consider in the bidding for the KC-X tanker the unfair competitive advantages received by European based EADS, the parent company of Airbus, and requires

the DOD to report these unfair advantages to Congress so that they may be taken into account in the future.

On March 23, 2010, the World Trade Organization (WTO) issued a final ruling in the United States' four year trade case against European Governments. The WTO found that the billions of dollars in European subsidies and launch aid provided to underwrite Airbus's development of all of its commercial airplanes was illegal and had contributed to the loss of almost 65,000 American aerospace jobs. EADS has submitted a bid to provide a new air tanker for the Air Force based on its A330 airframe, which has received more than \$5 billion in illegal subsidies.

"In the end, this is about what is fair for the American taxpayer and fair for competing companies," Carnahan said. "I urge my colleagues to join me in standing up for American taxpayers and American workers."

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